



Outdoor Environmental Learning Center City of Benson, Swift County

Partners: **City of Benson**
 Swift County
 MN Department of Natural Resources
 USDI- Fish and Wildlife Service
 USDA-NRCS

The City of Benson, Minnesota is pursuing the restoration of tallgrass prairie and drained wetlands on 40.0 acres of existing cropland. The project site is within the city limits of Benson, and is immediately adjacent to the Chippewa river. The project will involve the establishment of 35.5 acres of native tallgrass prairie, 3.0 acres of native shrubs, and restoration of 1.5 acres of wooded and emergent wetlands.



Additional practices to be installed within and adjacent to the WHIP project include; educational walking trails and outreach materials. The project will be utilized by the city residents and local school district as an outdoor learning center.

The overall project will benefit water quality of the Chippewa river. The prairie restoration will benefit resident and migratory grassland species including state species of special concern. The wetland restorations will benefit migratory waterbirds as well as amphibians and reptiles including state listed Blandings Turtle.

